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## MISCELLANY.

### MRS. MILBURN'S CHRISTMAS.

"Christmas is coming; do you know it, Delia?" asked Mrs. Milburn's maiden sister and domestic lieutenant-general. "Is it not time to give out your invitations?" "Invitations to what?" said the lady, rather drowsily, without lifting her eyes from the study of the glowing coals. "Why, to your dinner-party, of course," replied Miss Hildreth, with a reproachful accent. "You were dozing, weren't you, when I spoke?"

"No," answered Mrs. Milburn; "I am not sure that I shall give a party this year." "Well, now? What can have come over you?" "Nothing alarming," was the composed rejoinder; "but I am tired of pursuing the same round, seeing the same faces at my table, and dismissing them, only to find them reassembled at some other house on New Year's day. I confer no benefit, and receive none, that I am aware of; and, moreover, I am sick of the whole farce!"

Miss Hildreth looked as astonished as her unimpassioned nature would allow. The existence of a custom was, with her, sufficient reason for its perpetuity, and the idea of breaking through so respectable an one as the present was, to say the least, very singular. Although she had no intention of dropping the subject finally, she kept on in discreet silence, while Mrs. Milburn rose from her chair, and walked to the centre-table, over which the gas burned softly, and upon which, in plain state, a gilded Bible and prayer-book lay side by side. Idly she turned the leaves of one, and read:

"When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, nor thy neighbors, lest they also bid thee, and a recompense be made thee. But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, and the blind. And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee; for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just."

With sudden interest her glance lingered on the page. A voice seemed speaking through the haze of her own indecision, reiterating the sacred command.

Mrs. Milburn returned to her seat and resumed her netting, but faster than the needle in her hands shifted the thoughts, which, from being without form and void, gradually took definite shape.

Miss Hildreth retired early, asking no questions regarding her sister's intentions; and, as Mrs. Milburn made no reference to the previous evening's talk, it was not again alluded to for several days.

In passing, we may state that Mrs. Milburn was a wealthy widow, of aristocratic pedigree, and possessed of social gifts that gave her pre-eminence in her circle of acquaintance. May the easy life, based upon these facts, but from lack of object, grow lonesome and dull. Such, at least, was the experience which had given no outward sign, until the pretty and willful lady declared war against this fashion of stately and staid dinner-parties, quite resolved to improvise, instead, something novel and unique. We claim for her no higher motive than that of indulging a passing whim, which luckily involved the gratification of others; but if evil is wrought by want of thought, the same may occasionally be asserted of good; either spring is easily touched by the most wayward fancies.

"You must have a new dining-room carpet, Delia," announced Miss Hildreth, as they concluded their rather silent breakfast, and she leaned back in her chair. "And curtains," she added, taking a deliberate survey of the room.

"Yes, I will make a list this very moment of articles needed at once. I have noted down a few purchases which I must attend to to-day," and she unfolded her ivory tablets. They were covered with a curious medley of names of people, and places, and commissions at various shops not included in her usual shopping tour. But Miss Hildreth only perceived the length of the list already made, and inferred that her sister had recovered her good sense, and was really intent upon a party.

After assisting in the selection of certain household matters, the maiden lady desired to be set down at home, and Mrs. Milburn pursued her project without remonstrance. The plan of gathering in from the highways and hedges a company of persons unused to the luxuries and comforts that surrounded her own life, of beholding their smiles, and listening to their exclamations of delight, was very agreeable; the longer it was entertained the brighter it grew.

From different sources she learned when and where to find her guests, and, if need be, provide them with clothing and comforts. They were not to be of the abjectly poor and ignorant, but were chosen from that mournful class between the lowest and the middle strata of society; the struggling, unrequited multitude, who by endless contrivance keep soul and body together, never well off, usually not destitute of the

bare necessities of life. We will not follow Mrs. Milburn upon her round of calls, which were received at first with surprise and incredulity, as their object was unfolded; but, when convinced that it was no hoax practiced upon them, listened to it with delight.

Accident summoned Miss Hildreth from home at this time, and reluctantly she obeyed its behest.

"It is too bad to leave you in the midst of your preparations for Christmas, Delia," she remarked. "But I shall be here to attend your party. You are intending to give one?" with that air of assurance which had won her many a victory.

"Certainly!" answered Mrs. Milburn, with a meaning smile. "I think it will be larger than usual."

"O, then you mean to ask the Maynards, Mrs. McBride's friends from Washington; and had n't you best call on the new family that has moved into the stone cottage? They were at church last Sabbath; very genteel, nice-looking people."

"Sister Delia" was busy at this moment, and made no definite reply, so the exemplary spinster departed quite unenlightened with regard to the truth.

The time flew apace. Never had Mrs. Milburn been happier than during those days whose constant occupation left her no opportunity for ennui; and, with more satisfaction than she would once have dreamed possible, she superintended the arrangements of her elegant house.

But one individual was invited to share her duties as hostess, and that a woman whose face was dearly welcome in the humble homes of which Mrs. Milburn had just gained an insight. She had begged permission to unite with Mrs. Milburn in her benevolent scheme, and as the "dinner" had been changed to an evening entertainment, including a Christmas-tree, the request was gladly complied with. Others accustomed to giving caught the intimation of what was going forward, and a large supply of presents was contributed by those who did not enjoy the "merry-making" so skillfully managed. A clear, star-bright night closed on the sunny Christmas day.

One of those still nights when the world seems listening—for what? It may be for the angels' song on that glad anniversary. Mrs. Milburn's "brown-stone front" house was the last of a long line of similar buildings; all of which were more or less brilliant upon the evening of which we write. But the flood of mellow light poured from her broad windows seemed fairly to warm that part of the street, and her neighbors remarked, "What a grand affair the widow's party must be." There was, however, no music but that of the piano, and no hired waiters oshered in the unwonted visitors with stiff ceremony. But the loveliest flowers occupied every niche, and adorned every table. What a fairy-land seemed the vista of those splendid rooms to the eyes grown weary almost of life, from long contact with only its hardest realities.

The choicest engravings and books and curiosities were lavishly displayed; and Mrs. Milburn, with ready tact, explained their merits and exhibited them to one and another. If there was the least savor of kindly condescension in her manner, it was so slight that none were made to feel it; and Mrs. Raynor looked on with surprise at the ease with which her gay friend could adapt herself to circumstances.

But who were these people so oddly lifted out of their "sphere" into the breath of a charmed world? I will think a moment, and tell you.

This quiet little woman, in rusty mourning, seated in one of the bay-windows, is, of course, a minister's widow, a boarding-house keeper in the smallest and most dismal way. The pale-looking girl near is her daughter, clad to-night in some bright fabric which most unexpectedly fell to her lot only this week. Do you know what innocent pleasure a new dress may afford to one forced to regard utility in every purchase?

The homely little man, standing in the shadow of a marble Flora, and feasting his sight upon it, is a schoolmaster, whose country home was closed upon him when he became too old to teach the village children. In the city he has found some light employment; but this does not replace what was lost in his plain but free life beyond the great town. "Very rarely does the 'Spirit of Beauty' wave her wings over him. I assure you that he enjoys keenly this novel panorama, which he quietly observes, wandering from room to room. There are invalid soldiers with their families, and a plentiful sprinkling of children, with shining hair and faces. These talk at first in whispers and cling closely together, half afraid of crushing the flowers and leaves that spring up in the velvet carpet. A music-box repeats its silvery round of tunes for them as long as they care to listen. And there is a globe of gold-fish, which creates great amusement; and O, the conservatory! are there any limits to what

this famous house contains? The grand piano stands in a small room devoted to music, and to this Mrs. Milburn brings a young woman, who in humble fashion teaches the art to a few pupils. She has never touched so fine an instrument before, and when left to enjoy it by herself, her hands wander timidly over the keys, mellow and clear, and full the notes ring out. She thinks of the tiny, rickety old piano at home, and wonders if Mrs. Milburn does not spend half her days in practicing.

Enough of the company; from our description you can imagine what and whom they were like. At nine o'clock the supper-room was opened, and in the centre of the table stood the green and glorious Christmas-tree!

"It grew in real woods!" whispered one child to another, and they drew nearer, and tried to think what "real woods" must be like.

Pretty, and useful, and comfortable were the articles displayed, and deep, if not loud, the murmurs of satisfaction with which they were accepted. All that she had anticipated Mrs. Milburn realized at least once in her life, with but one drawback—a pervading thought of the years wasted in selfish aims, which might have been employed in nobly aiding the happiness of others. And the lesson was laid to heart.

She too was remembered with many and costly ho-liday gifts, but none brought with them a joy as sincere as the smiles and thanks of her Christmas guests.

"Charity is thrice blest; it blesseth him that gives, and him that takes."

OWLS. By Josh Billings. Birds is God's choir-leaders.

Tew the lion he gave majesty, tew the elephant strength, tew the fox cunning, and to the tiger deceit. But to the birds, his pets, he gave buty and song.

And none so blest as the owl.

He is a game bird; he can whip anything that wears feathers, (after dark.) He is a wise bird; and boots most things. He is a solemn bird; a cross between a justice and the peace and a county supervisor.

He is a stiff bird, and sets up as stiff as an exclamation point!

He is a luxurious bird, and feeds on spring chickens.

He is a long lived bird, and never was known to take death naturally.

He is a hardy bird, and groze tuff by hiling.

He is an honest bird and alwaz shows an open countenance.

He is a prompt bird, and satifize at once his out standing bill.

He is a comfortable bird, and alwaz sleeps in feathers.

He is an attentive bird, and durin the day can be alwaz found in.

He is a festive bird, and dont cum home till morning.

Thus the owl, a mistaken emble on solitude and sadness, if we dig into his nature closely, is emphatically one uv the boys, and belongs to the club.

A FRENCH BREACH OF PROMISE CASE. An interesting breach of promise case was tried lately in the valley of Munster, (Grisons.) Several brothers and sisters had mutually agreed never to enter the state of matrimony. The youngest sister however repented of her vow, and engaged herself secretly to be married. The other brothers and sisters, upon learning of this, became very angry, and so ill-treated her that she took refuge in the house of her lover. She was, however, forced to her home, when she was persuaded that a life of celibacy was, after all, better than marriage, for she broke off her engagement with her lover, who in der; air brought an action against her for breach of promise, and the tribunal has condemned the family to pay the disappointed lover 400 francs damages.

Never despise counsels, from whatever quarter they reach you. Remember that the pearl is keenly sought for in spite of the coarse shell which envelopes it.

"O, I am so glad you like birds! What kind do you most admire?" said a young wife to her husband.

"Well, I think a good turkey, with plenty of seasoning about as good as any."

Envy and jealousy make the cushion of your chair a pin-cushion, with the points all turned upwards.

"Delays" are said "few be dangerous," but I have thought the time spent in courting was a good risk take. [Billings.]

The Piscataquis Observer says the lamp chimney factory in Foxcroft has resumed operations.

The cucumber came from the East Indies.

## ROOMS TO LET.

THE RECORD OF A LITTLE MISTAKE.

"I believe it was No. 99 Mellen street," said Harry St. Cliffe, as he ascended the stately flight of steps that led up to the carved doorway of what he supposed was the boarding house of which he was in search. Almost before his hand touched the bell-wire, the portals swung noiselessly open.

"I suppose," he began, slightly embarrassed how to unfold his errand, "the lady is at home—and—"

"Oh, yes, sir—it's all right—just walk in, sir," said the portly black servant, with a broad grin upon his polished countenance. "Walk up stairs, sir—shall I take your valise?"

St. Cliffe followed his guide up a velvet carpeted staircase, painfully conscious of being watched the while by two pretty heads stretched over a balustrade a story higher up.

"The landlady's daughters, I suppose," he said to himself. "I wonder if they play the piano and keep photographic albums." At this moment the son of Africa threw open a door, and ushered him into an elegantly furnished apartment, where folds of gleaming blue silk at the windows almost excluded the golden sunshine, and wreaths of pictured forget-me-nots blossomed upon a carpet of dark blue velvet.

"Is this the room?" inquired Harry, staring blank about him.

"Dis is de room, sir," rejoined the negro, bowing low.

"And when can I see your mistress, to arrange your know, about—"

"Presently, sir—she is n't quite ready yet—it's all right sir—just make yourself at home, missus says!"

The African withdrew, leaving Mr. St. Cliffe in a state of high gratification.

"This is something like," he soliloquized. "I suppose I shall have to pay roundly for all this velvet and silk upholstery, but who cares?"

He opened the door and looked out into the hall, to see if his sable acquaintance was visible. Not a sign of him; but Harry's sensitive ear caught the dulcet intonations of female voices on the landing above.

"No luggage but a valise!" ejaculated one. "Well, if that is n't curious. How does he look, Minnie?"

"O, splendid!" answered a musical voice. "Such black eyes and whiskers!"

St. Cliffe involuntarily felt of his hirsute decoration, and experienced a curious sensation of heat upon his cheeks, akin to blushing.

"How I wish I had seen him," rejoined the first speaker. "How nervous Annie must feel. What time is it, Minnie? Five minutes to twelve?"

A momentary silence followed, then a flutter of feminine drapery.

"How do you like my dress, Kate?" questioned the damsel with the voice like small bells. "White muslin and blue ribbons is n't so very unbecoming to me, is it?"

Kissing and giggling succeeded. Harry St. Cliffe wished he could see the countenance of the sweet-voiced Miss Minnie.

"However, I shall probably meet her at lunch," he thought, "and she will be red-haired and freckled, and the vision will be dispelled!"

Nevertheless he crunched his hair with great parsimony, and replaced his crumpled black silk cravat with one of delicate lilac satin, fastened by an amethyst pin.

Mrs. St. Cliffe was n't a dandy by any means, but still he had a very pardonable ambition to look as well as possible in the eyes of the sweet voice who had pronounced so favorable an opinion upon his *tout ensemble*.

Presently the door was opened by the waiter.

"De ladies is in readiness, sir!"

"Very well, so am I," returned St. Cliffe. "Excuse me de liberty, sir," said the man, looking rather dissatisfied, "but you ought to wear a white vest."

"It strikes me you are a little over particular here, friend Ebony," said Harry, laughing. "Now I think plain black brocade is perfectly suitable to the occasion."

"Just as you please, sir," returned the waiter, who was evidently a spoiled retainers—one of those nuisances yeapt "a faithful family servant."

Instead, however, of leading the way down to the dining-room in some subterranean depth, as St. Cliffe expected, the man threw open a door upon an opposite landing, leading at the top of his lungs:

"Here be is, Miss Annie!"

ite accessions, there was a soft rustle of lace and satin across the room, and a beautiful, dowcast face, half hidden by long, sunny curls, interwoven with sprays of trailing white jessamine, was buried on his shoulder.

In short, Mr. St. Cliffe found himself holding a radiant young bride to his usurped heart. He found it exceedingly agreeable, but a little uncomfortable; he could n't very well drop the young lady, and yet he felt that he had no manner of business with her pretty head on his breast.

"Dear Frank, did you get tired of waiting?" whispered a tremulous little voice.

"But my name is n't Frank!" stammered the young man, nervously. "And besides—"

"Not Frank!" shrieked a chorus of voices, and in the same breath he felt himself jerked away as if he had been a straw in the grasp of a giant.

"Hallo!" ejaculated a bass voice, in accents of mingled astonishment and indignation, as a tall six-footer interposed.

"I'd like to know what you are doing with my bride, young man! What does it mean, Annie?"

But Annie had gone gracefully into hysterics.

"I'm a little late, I know," said the stranger, apologetically, "but the train from Philadelphia was delayed, and—do n't cry, Annie, love—my little jewel! It's some mistake, depend upon it."

What spell he used to dry the tears on Annie's rose-leaf cheeks, and bring back the truant smiles, we know not, but it must have been something very potent, to judge by its effects.

"Now then, sir," said Frank Tyndale, the genuine bridegroom, turning in an off-hand sort of a way to St. Cliffe, who had been standing in a resigned attitude by the door, under full fire from two pair of eyes, one dewy hazel, the other rugged blue—the possessors being respectively Minnie Dale and Kate Willoughby, bridesmaids officiating, "just let me understand this strange business."

"I have no explanation to offer, sir, excepting that I am quite conscious of having made a fool of myself," replied St. Cliffe calmly. Kate giggled, but Minnie, a delicious



## Hamlin and Colfax.

In our last we gave some reasons why the names of Hannibal Hamlin and Schuyler Colfax would make a strong ticket in the next presidential election. In the article referred to we had no room to speak of their public services.

In fact, Mr. Hamlin is so well known among us that it would seem almost superfluous to give the details of his eventful political career; yet it may not be amiss to notice a few points in his personal history. He was born in Paris, August 27, 1809, and received a good academic education. He spent a year in a printing-office, subsequently studied law, and was admitted to the bar in 1833. He continued in his profession, in active practice, until 1848. He was a member of the State Legislature from 1836 to 1840, and Speaker of the House of Representatives 1837, 1839 and 1840. He was elected and served as a member of the 28th and 29th Congress. He was again a member of the Maine House of Representatives in 1847, and elected to the U. S. Senate May 26, 1846, to fill a vacancy occasioned by the death of Hon. John Fairfield. He was re-elected for 6 years in 1851, and elected Governor of Maine in 1857. On the 16th of January, 1857, he was again elected Senator, and on the 20th of February resigned the office of Governor. In 1860 he was elected Vice President of the United States, and in 1865 appointed Collector of the Port of Boston, which office he resigned in August, 1866. It will be seen that Mr. Hamlin's public services cover a period of thirty years. During this time our country has passed through its most eventful periods. This long and faithful public service has made Mr. Hamlin perfectly familiar with the political history of the country. So far as experience goes, but few men can point to a larger or better record. Two thoughts here suggest themselves in connection with point. Mr. Hamlin understands the duties pertaining to the presidential chair, and the people know him. Mr. Hamlin has always been popular with the masses. It is no disparagement to the memories of Mr. Lincoln to say that the name of Hannibal Hamlin added strength to the presidential ticket in 1860; and the great misfortune of the country now is that it was not retained in 1864. The greatest political campaign in Maine was in 1856, when Mr. Hamlin, as the standard-bearer of the Republican party, was elected Governor by about 20,000 majority. A remark in our last number is worthy of repetition: that in every public position in which Mr. Hamlin has been placed he has not only equaled, but exceeded, the expectation of the people. This can be said of but very few public men. If large experience, statesmanlike capacity, fidelity to friends and honesty of purpose are essential qualifications to the presidential office, then will Mr. Hamlin favorably compare with almost any living statesman in the country.

Schuyler Colfax was born in New York City March 23d, 1823, received a good common school education, was bred a printer, and settled in Indiana in 1846. He has been the editor and publisher of the South Bend Register from 1842 to 1865. In 1850 he was a member of the Indiana Constitutional Convention, and a delegate to the Whig National Conventions of 1848 and 1852, and Secretary of each Convention. He was elected to the 34th Congress from Indiana in 1854, and has been elected to each succeeding Congress up to, and including, the 39th. He is Speaker of the 38th (present) Congress, and will undoubtedly be elected Speaker of the next House. Mr. Colfax's long service in the House of Representatives has developed a high order of talent, and a sound practical statesmanship found in but very few of our public men. Like Mr. Hamlin, he is a self-made man. Sprung from the people, and growing up with the people, he possesses their confidence in a remarkable degree. Among his peers, Mr. Colfax has always enjoyed a wonderful degree of popularity. Honest, kind-hearted, true and faithful, Mr. Colfax stands to-day one of the most popular men in the great West. No two men can be found in the whole country who were more intensely loyal through the perils of the rebellion than Hamlin and Colfax; and to-day no two men can be found who more faithfully and truly represent the loyal sentiment of the nation, as developed in the late elections. A ticket made up of the names that stand at the head of this article would be a rare combination of political strength. Hamlin from the East, Colfax from the West; Hamlin originally a Democrat, Colfax originally a Whig. As Presidents have no lease of their lives, the whole country would feel perfectly safe to see Mr. Colfax succeed to the presidential chair, in case of a vacancy. Give us Hamlin and Colfax, and the loyal enthusiasm of the country would be aroused to the highest pitch. This would defy all opposition, and sweep the country like a prairie fire sweep over the fields of the great West.

We notice that parties will petition the next Legislature for a charter which will enable them to tap the arm of Richardson Lake, thus procuring water enough to float out from the Lake region, through Black Brook, the immense quantity of lumber annually cut. The gain in distance is apparent, and several bad points will be avoided. The petitioners are practical men, who would satisfy themselves of the feasibility of the plan, before taking steps to carry it out.

## Reconstruction.

Last week, Mr. Blaine opened the question of reconstruction, in a brief speech. He argued that the Southern States having so long neglected to profit by the measures passed last winter, were no longer entitled to receive profit from them. He further demonstrated the necessity for some change in the basis of representation, before they were admitted. He said:

The population of the States recently slaveholding was by the census of 1860 only 12,340,000, of whom 8,039,000 were whites and 4,301,000 negroes. The population of the free States by the same census was 19,201,546, of whom only 237,000 were negroes. It would hardly be maintained by any one that the late slaveholding States, taken as a whole, have done anything more than halve their population of 1860, while in the free States, despite the losses of war, the ratio of increase has never been more rapid than since that year. It is speaking with all moderation to say that the population of the free States is today 25,000,000.

Supposing the constitutional amendment to be adopted, therefore, as the basis of readmitting the Southern States to the privilege of representation, it would be a cruel mockery of the whole aim and intent of that amendment to usher those States upon this floor with the full number of Representatives assigned them by the census of 1860, when three-fifths of their slaves and all their disfranchised free people of color were allowed them in fixing the basis of representation. Were they so admitted to-day the aggregate number of Representatives from the late slave States would be eighty-five, and from the free States one hundred and fifty-six—making a House of two hundred and forty-one in all. And yet if those two hundred and forty-one members were divided between the free and slave States on the basis of the representative population as directed by the constitutional amendment, the slave States would have but fifty-eight members, while the free States would have one hundred and eighty-three.

A corresponding change would be wrought in the Electoral College. Were the Government to permit an election for President and Vice President in 1868 on the basis assigned by the census of 1860, the late slave States would have 115 electoral votes, while the free States would have 198. But on the actual basis contemplated by the constitutional amendment the late slave States would have but 88, while the free States would have 225. On the old basis the free States would thus have a majority of 88, while on the basis of the constitutional amendment, they would have a majority of 127; a net difference of electoral votes in favor of the free States.

In view of these results, which are the plainest arithmetical deductions, it could not be expected, that the free States, even if they were to adhere to the constitutional amendment as the ultimatum of adjustment would consent to have the lately rebellious States admitted to representation here and to a participation in the Electoral College until the relative and proper strength of the several States should be adjusted anew by a special census and by an appointment made in pursuance thereof. It was in this belief and with these views that the last session of Congress. I framed a bill providing for a special enumeration of the inhabitants of the United States, which bill was on my motion referred to the reconstruction committee, and has never been reported upon either favorably or adversely.

What then shall be done? The people, so far as I represent them, have plainly spoken in the late elections, and the interpretation of their voice is not difficult. They have pronounced with unmistakable emphasis in favor of the constitutional amendment with the superadded and indispensable prerequisite of manhood suffrage. The constitutional amendment with its definition of American citizenship, with its guarantee of the national obligation, and with its prohibition of the assumption of the rebel debt, is an invaluable addition to our organic law. We cannot surrender its provisions, and the rebel States cannot by their utmost resistance defeat its adoption. It is too late to deny or even to argue the right or power of the Government to impose on those States conditions precedent to their resumption of the privilege of representation. The President set the example by exacting three highly important concessions from those States as a basis of reconstruction. Congress followed by imposing four other conditions as its basis of reconstruction, if you please, and now the people have spoken demanding one additional condition as their basis of reconstruction, and that condition is the absolute equality of American citizens in civil and political rights without regard to caste, color, or creed.

The objection in the popular mind of the loyal States to the constitutional amendment as a basis of final adjustment is not directed to what that amendment will effect, but to what it will not effect. And among the objects of prime importance which it will not effect, is the absolute protection of the two classes in the South to whom Government owes the most, namely, the loyal white men and the loyal black men. The amendment, if made the basis of final adjustment without further condition, leaves the rebel element of the South in possession of the local governments, free to persecute the Union men of all complexions in numberless ways, and to deprive them of all participation in civil affairs, provided they will submit to a curtailed representation in Congress as the penalty. The danger is that they would accept the comparatively small infliction on themselves in order to secure the power, of voting the loyalists with a full measure of vengeance; just as certain religious denominations in England at various times under the reign of the Stuarts favored measures of proscription which bore with some harshness on themselves, because they were enabled thereby to punish some rival and hated sectaries with still more severity and cruelty.

Among the most solemn duties of a sovereign Government is the protection of those citizens who, under great temptations and amid great perils, maintain their faith and their loyalty. The obligation on the Federal Government to protect the loyalists of the South is supreme, and they must take all needful means to assure that protection. Among the most needful is the gift of free suffrage, and that must be guaranteed. There is no protection you can extend to a man so effective and conclusive as the power to protect himself. And in assuring protection to the loyal citizen you assure permanency to the Government; so that the bestowal of suffrage is not merely the discharge of a personal obligation toward those who are enfranchised, but it is the most far-sighted provision against social disorder, the surest guarantee for peace, prosperity, and public justice.

## Woolen Mill Burned at Oxford.

On Friday last, about 12 o'clock at night, a fire was discovered in the upper story of the new mill, belonging to the Robinson Manufacturing Company. This mill ran eight full sets of machinery, and was built in 1864, and was connected with a mill previously built, which operated four sets. The alarm was immediately given, and the citizens were promptly on the spot. The fire engine, purchased by the people of Oxford Village last summer, was not long in being brought to the place of fire by the efficient fire company by which it was manned. By the time operations could be commenced the fire had burst through the roof of the building, and was raging with such fury that it became at once evident that nothing could save the new mill. At this time the wind was blowing a gale from the north, exposing all the dwellings on High street to the fury of the flames. The dwelling house of Joseph Robinson, Esq., stood but a few rods from the burning building, and directly in range of the fire, and only a few rods further south, in the same range, was the Methodist church and vestry, a large wooden building. If these two buildings had been burned, no power on earth could have saved any portion of the dwellings on High street, about twenty-five in number. For several hours the new mill burned with terrible fury. The flames, lashed by the gale of wind then blowing, sent a perfect shower of fire for half a mile, over and around the buildings on High street. Mr. Robinson's house, the church, and nearly every building southerly of it, caught fire more or less, and was only saved by a kind Providence and the superhuman exertions of the inhabitants. In a few hours the new mill, which had been the pride and ornament of the village, was a mass of ruins—its lofty bell tower and a portion of its wall only left standing to remind the passer-by of its former beauty. The engine saved the old mill. Had this gone, two-thirds of the whole village would have been laid in ruins. The mill property in this village belongs to the "Robinson Manufacturing Company," of which the Messrs. Libby, of Portland, and Joseph Robinson, Esq., of Oxford, were the principal stockholders. The loss, we are informed, will be about \$150,000, upon which there is an insurance of \$110,000. This loss is not only a great calamity to the owners, but to the whole village. A large number of comparatively dependent persons are suddenly turned out of employment, while the material interests of all will be affected more or less. The wonder is, after all, that the conflagration was not more extensive. There was no snow; everything dry and combustible,—so much so that acres of moving land in the vicinity of the village was run over by fire in the stubble,—and the wind blowing a hurricane. Had there been no engine in the village, and had not the wind, during the height of the fire, veered a little to the east, at least two-thirds of the village must have been destroyed. Only one small building, a house, the property of the Factory Co., besides the new mill, was burned.

WHAT TO DO WITH IT? That fund, collected by donations from all parts of the country, to relieve the dire necessities of the people who were made homeless by the great fire in Portland, is a source of great anxiety to some of the inhabitants of that city, and numerous are the suggestions as to its disposition. We are inclined to think that some of the donors have been as much as four times blessed,—the fourth time in the amusement caused by these discussions. It is only a little time since everybody wanted the money divided among the societies who had lost their churches, so that monuments should be erected in commemoration of this charity, but justice requires us to state that this piece of folly was promptly rebuked. Meantime snapping cold weather has come, and the committee find uses enough of the cash every day. We hope they will keep so busy in seeking out and relieving the sufferers, as not to bear any of the suggestions made for the diversion of the cash.

COLLIERY EXPLOSIONS. The cable dispatches announce a series of terrible explosions lately occurring in England. The scene has been repeated in the mines, with a loss of 550 lives. While there was a lingering hope that some might be safe, the mines took fire, and they were flooded with water to extinguish it. Explosions occurred while relief parties were at work, so that a large number of volunteers are among the number dead. The villages are a scene of wailing over the terrible calamity.

FIRE IN FRYEBURG. About eight o'clock Sunday evening the barn of James O. McMillan was discovered to be on fire. The flames spread rapidly, and all therein, with a single exception, was burned, consisting of 8 or 10 tons of hay, 3 cows, 2 heifers, 1 calf, 1 horse and colt. A two years old colt effected his escape unaided, and was saved. From this the flames spread to a barn very near, owned by Wm. Kelley, which, containing about the same quantity of hay, was also consumed. Loss about \$500. No insurance. Mr. McMillan's loss will be about \$1000. No insurance. At one time it was feared the adjoining house of his brother John must go, it having caught several times, but by the aid of the engine it was ultimately saved. Incendiary.

Tuesday morning, Capt. J. E. Bryant of Augusta, Georgia, formerly of Buckfield, was admitted to practice as an Attorney and Counsellor.

## Supreme Judicial Court.

KENT, J., Present.

86. David Kimball vs. Lewiston Steam Mill Co. Action of assumpsit for timber cut upon plaintiff's land, in Byron. After the introduction of testimony upon each side, the case was withdrawn from the jury and continued on report.

Ludden & Black. Hammond. 150. Nathan L. Marshall vs. Warren R. Thomas. Action of assumpsit for non-performance of contract to deliver hops purchased by plaintiff of defendant. Verdict for plaintiff, damages assessed at \$14. Costs recovered by plaintiff, \$3.50.

Bolster & Richardson. Harlow. 195. Geneva Mitchell, lib't, vs. Roscoe G. Mitchell. Libel for divorce. Cause, desertion from the army, and neglect to provide for his family. Divorce decreed, and custody of minor children given to lib't.

Black for lib't. 232. Eli Whitney, Jr., lib't, vs. Sophronia A. Whitney. Libel for abusive and violent conduct towards lib't and his children, and for constant manifestations of disgust and disrespect for lib't.

Walker for lib't. 324. Jno. K. Martin, lib't, vs. Josephine M. Martin. The lib't was ordered to deposit \$60 with Clerk, to enable libellee to conduct her defense, and case continued.

Bolster & Richardson. Luce. 325. Mary A. Wilkins, lib't, vs. Chas. Wilkins. Libel for abusive and violent conduct of husband, and incompatibility of temper. Divorce decreed, and custody of minor child given to mother.

Bolster & Richardson for lib't. 345. Patience T. Hammond, lib't, vs. Rollins L. Hammond. Libellee was ordered to deposit \$50 with Clerk to enable lib't to prosecute her libel, and case continued.

Bolster & Richardson. Randall & Harlow.

347. Joshua L. Weeks, lib't, vs. Ann Weeks. Libel for adultery and abuse. Divorce decreed, and custody of minor children given to the father.

Bolster & Richardson for lib't. 362a D. Thurlow, lib't, vs. Melissa J. Thurlow. Cause, desertion and adultery. Divorce decreed.

Black for lib't. 385. Ansel P. Cook, lib't, vs. Clara Cook. Divorce decreed.

Hastings for lib't.

About 10 cases of divorce stand upon the docket undisposed of.

## CRIMINAL MATTERS.

11. State vs. John C. Fellows, appt. Assault and battery. Nol. pros. entered, on payment of fine and costs, \$22.50.

Co. Atty for State.

17. State vs. H. W. Harriman. Common seller. Plea, guilty. Fine, \$100, and costs, \$75, paid.

30. State vs. Isaiah E. Booney. Larceny of gold watch. Plea, guilty. Sentence, 6 months in County jail.

State vs. Mark P. Tripp. Assault and battery. Principal and accessories defaulted on their recognizance.

State vs. Jed-diah Estes. This trial has occupied the attention of the Court for three days, and engrossed the liveliest interest of spectators, from the extreme raucousness of the facts developed, and the indelicate slaughter of character of the principal witnesses, as well as of the immediate parties, for truth, chastity, and almost every other moral virtue. The defendant, Estes, is charged with firing "a gun loaded with powder and leaden bullets," with intent to murder the complainant, and one Damon. The defendant admits the firing, but denies the intent, testifying that as a general practice he "be fired to kill" but in this instance "only to frighten," alleging in way of justification that he had suffered almost every injury and indignity that "human nature" is subject to from the complaint, Ryerson, and had "stood it," but when Ryerson came for the purpose of entering away his "lured mind," one Julia Reed, alias Julia Brown, now the wife of Ryerson, endurance ceased to be a virtue, and thereupon he gave an "exhibition" of a dirk knife, a pistol, and a Springfield rifle, simply to promote the cause of morality and virtue. On Monday, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, it was evident that both parties were present, with witnesses "in force." The attack was commenced in gallant style by the Gov't forces, and so irresistibly pushed that the defendant, although the hero of many hard fights, was compelled to retire "in good order," until the Gov't obtained a "prima facie" victory. Up to this moment the carnage was not great, the defendant personally having received some very damaging wounds, which might or might not prove mortal. In this attack, Ryerson and his wife so far led all other Government witnesses, as to weaken their position of which fact "Jed" took immediate advantage, and, notwithstanding his crippled condition, gallantly led a counter-charge, directed against the enemy's "centre," and the engagement became general, along the whole line witness engaging witness in hand to hand conflict, without regard to sex or age. Ex officers and soldiers of the Union army, present, "as of yore" rushed into the conflict with the same ardor as if "under fire" for the first time. Members of the bar, who up to this time had been held in reserve, were now sent in as "supports" on either side, as the necessity of the case seemed to require, and the conflict assumed a spirit of Kilkenny cat-bushness, highly exciting and interesting to one situated as was his Honor, upon an elevated seat, having all the advantages of a "balloon view" of the conflict raging beneath him. The case was given to the jury, Wednesday evening, and

## on Thursday morning a verdict of "guilty" was rendered.

State vs. Chas. Leavitt et al. Riot in Oxford. Russell Devald pleaded guilty, and was fined \$20. Leavitt and McCoy defaulted. Valentine escaped.

## More Big Pigs.

Ed. Dem.: Mr. John Stanley, of Porter, bought a pig in January last, weighing 116 lbs. He was kept three months for the use of snow, being carried about and having poor fare during the time. He was killed, after keeping 10 months and 30 days, and weighed 550 lbs.

Capt. Libbey, of the same place, bought one about the same time, weighing 119 lbs., kept him 12 months and 13 days, and he came up to 602 lbs. His feed was corn and cob meal, with slops.

Mr. Brackett, of Cornish, slaughtered a pig a few days ago, less than 9 months old, which weighed 490 lbs.

Who beats these? 137

Mr. L. A. Carter, North Norway, a few days ago, killed a pig, a little less than 9 months old, that weighed 440 pounds. This is the best one yet reported in Oxford County.

Mr. S. P. Gurney, of Norway, had one from the same litter as the above, that dressed 408 pounds.

Uriah H. Upton, Esq., killed two sheats, whose united weight was above 1100 lbs.

Norway crows a little over a crower raised by Mr. U. H. Upton, that weighed 6 1-4 pounds. It was a June chicken.

## THE ATLANTIC FOR JANUARY.

The Atlantic Monthly enters on its nineteenth volume with an array of distinguished names and sterling articles that promise well for the coming year. The January number contains the first instalment of Dr. Holmes's story, "The Guardian Angel," in which will be found the same old charm that so fascinated the readers of the Autocrat, the Professor, and Elsie Venner; a humorous story in verse, by James Russell Lowell; a graphic sketch of Henry Ward Beecher's church, with some pertinent reflections upon modern church-going, by James Parton; a legend in verse, told as only Whittier can tell it, a poem entitled "Terminus," (on Growing Old,) by R. W. Emerson; a spirited and faithful translation of the contest between Achilles and Agamemnon, from the First Book of the Iliad, by W. C. Bryant. Mr. Higginson contributes a Fable for Culture; Mr. Trowbridge furnishes another of his attractive stories under the title, The Man who stole a Meeting-House; Bayard Taylor tells a characteristic story of The Strange Friend; Mr. Shandy gives a humorous sketch of Capillary Freaks; E. C. Stedman offers a poem on Pan in Wall Street; and Water Mitchell describes the Kingdom of Infancy. The story of Katharine Mornie, by the author of "Herminie," is continued. Topics of current political interest are thoughtfully treated,—the Causes for which a President can be impeached are lucidly set forth, and Frederick Douglass makes a powerful Appeal to Congress for Impartial Suffrage. The number closes with notices of several popular new publications.

OUR YOUNG FOLKS. The January number contains a full length portrait of Capt. Mayne Reed, whose stories have interested the readers of this magazine. The articles in this number are all of an interesting character, and speak well for the new year. The editors have many things in store. The department of travel, sustained by the adventures of Bayard Taylor and "Round-the-World Joe," of poetry, filled by Longfellow, Lowell, Whittier, Aldrich, and others; of music, to be contributed by J. R. Thomas, the most eminent song-writer, perhaps, in the world; of games and sports (a new one) under charge of a man of practical experience, of stories and sketches from the best writers in the country; of full-page pictures, inserted monthly, supplemented by occasional steel engravings and colored plates, every article which is capable of illustration being so accompanied; and the continuous, with new interest, of the "Evening Lamp," "Letter Box," and other distinctive and favorite characteristics of "Our Young Folks."

Terms, \$2.00 per year; with a deduction, and valuable premiums for clubs.

BREGLARY. The store of Messrs. Davis & Foster, at Bethel Hill, was broken open on Thursday night, 6th inst., and boots and clothing, to the amount of \$1500 stolen. The thieves entered by a window at the end of a short counter; and an inspection shows that they had broken the nails that fastened the window the day previous, as there were no other signs of force having been used. The window being nailed securely, as was supposed, it was not examined on closing the store.

To wash white goods to the last stage of purity, without corroding or rendering harsh the fibre, or impairing their durability in any mode the Steam Refined Soaps are employed, with the most satisfactory results.

The Journal says Charles Jameson, 35 years of age, was drowned at Sabbathville, Thursday noon, by breaking through the ice while skating on the pond.

The Lewiston Journal says: "Rev. Mr. Balkin preached a very appropriate and instructive discourse on Sunday afternoon, having reference to the decrease of the late Dr. Fanning, of this city."

## Buckfield Items.

Dr. W. F. Brigham received quite a severe injury last Saturday night, by falling through a scuttle in his stable loft, which had been incautiously left open.

Mr. Bradford, an enterprising young man in this place, has established a subscription library, which has a good prospect of becoming a permanent and growing institution.

The Superintendent of the P. & O. C. R. R. had removed his office, to East Sumner. The Company have built an engine-house there, to obviate the necessity of running back to this place to house their engines over night, which they have been accustomed to do for some time.

Mr. Jason Farrar is again installed as station agent. He held the position before the road passed into the hands of the present Company.

The Baptist Society intend having a Sabbath School Concert, Christmas tree, etc., Christmas eve, for the purpose of raising money for furnishing their house.

THE WINTHROP GAZETTE. We have neglected to state that the printing material of the Norway Advertiser has been removed to Wintthrop, where a job office was established some time since by Mr. W. K. Moody, formerly of Randolph. He has just started a local paper under the above title. Mr. M. has assurances of adequate support, and will be able to do all the work, with the assistance of his wife, who is a helpmeet in the printing-office.

In this connection, it will be of interest to the people, who have so long known Col. G. W. Millett, as publisher, first of the Democrat, and later of the Advertiser, to hear that he has removed to Massachusetts.

The Price Current announces the failure of Messrs. Bradley, Coolidge & Rogers, one of the heaviest wholesale dealers in corn and flour in Portland. That paper says the firm has always been characterized by public spirit and enterprise, and great liberality in enterprises tending to promote the business interests and prosperity of the city.

SOCIAL LEVEE AT SUMNER. The ladies of Sumner contemplate holding a levee at the Congregational meeting-house on Thursday eve, Dec. 27th, the proceeds arising therefrom to go to the freedmen and to the sufferers of Portland in the proportion of three to two. The ladies of Sumner have ever been highly successful in like enterprises, and we expect a grand entertainment. Admission 10 cents.

THE ADMISSION OF NEBRASKA. Nebraska hangs heavily in the Senate, but Mr. Wade gave notice just prior to adjournment that he should insist upon a vote to-morrow. The friends of the embryo State confidently expect that it will be admitted as once, while others are hopeful that the enabling act will contain a proviso that the word "white" must be first stricken from the State Constitution. [Journal.]

NOT A GREAT LOSS. The station house at Yarmouth Junction was burned on Monday afternoon, about three o'clock. All the property therein was saved except the Western tickets. Probably it will be replaced with something more decent than that structure was.

About one quarter of the U. S. Senate, as now constituted, favor the establishment of female suffrage, as shown by their votes. Senator Wilson has been opposed to connecting female suffrage with negro suffrage which he so zealously advocated. To use his own words, "The question of negro suffrage is now an imperative necessity. The negro should possess it for his own protection. It was a necessity that he should possess it, that the nation may preserve its power, its strength and its unity. We have fought that battle. We have won negro suffrage for the District of Columbia, and I say I believe we have won it for all the States; and before the 4th of March, 1869—before this administration shall close I hope that all the negroes in all the loyal States will be clothed with the right of suffrage. That they will be in the ten rebel States I cannot doubt, for patriotism, liberty, justice and humanity demand it."

## ALABAMA AND THE AMENDMENT.

The Boston Advertiser's special dispatch says: The sudden change of front with respect to the amendment to the Constitution on the part of Governor Patton, has been remarked as significant. A fact concerning the action of the Alabama Legislature has just come to light. After the delivery of his second message recommending its ratification, a caucus of the leading members of the legislature was held, at which it was almost determined to follow his recommendation. But about this time telegraphic despatches were received from Governor Patton, then in Washington, understood to have been sent at the instance of the President, urging the legislature to adjourn with the proposed action, and they did subsequently adjourn.

The Antiquarian Supper, given by the ladies of the Congregational Society at Norway Village, Wednesday evening, was a very pleasant and successful affair, and fully attended. Our columns this morning are in the condition of most who sat at that generous board, and such will appreciate the necessity for brevity in this paragraph.

A dangerous counterfeit of 6 per cent. 1861 bonds is out. Diligent search is being made for the counterfeiters that Johnson may have a chance to pardon them.



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